

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03387 091640Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3387

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TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE POLICY: INFORMATION -- WORKING CONDITIONS FOR
JOURNALISTS

REF: STATE 106441

1. WE AGREE THAT FINAL VERSION OF PARA 5 OF JOURNALISTS TEXT, OF AND BY ITSELF, WOULD BE REASONABLY SATISFACTORY IF IT CONTAINED PHRASES ON BOTH "BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAVEL" AND EARLY RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL WE HAD ALREADY INFORMED DUBININ THAT HIS SUGGESTION WAS A USEFUL FIRST STEP FORWARD, AND ASKED HIM TO PROPOSE TO US LANGUAGE ON EARLY RESPONSE WHICH HE COULD ACCEPT. WE NOTED THAT "BETTER OPPORTUNITIES" IS QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTION (E.G. A VISIT TO A FACTORY MIGHT BE JUDGED A "BETTER" OPPORTUNITY THAN A VISIT TO A DAM), WHILE "WIDER OPPORTUNITIES" IS QUANTITATIVE (E.G. MORE JOURNALISTS CAN MAKE MORE TRIPS). WE SAID WE WERE REALLY INTERESTED IN QUANTITATIVE IDEA, WHICH DERIVES FROM EARLIER PHRASE "WIDER TRAVEL" AND NOT QUALITATIVE IDEA, WHICH IS DIFFERENT, WHICH LENDS ITSELF TO SUBJECTIVE JUDGEMENT, AND WHICH MIGHT NOT BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY JOURNALISTS AS PROVIDING THEM A CONCRETE IMPROVEMENT.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03387 091640Z

2. IN FACT QUANTITATIVE (AND EVEN GEOGRAPHIC) CONCEPT OF "WIDER

TRAVEL" IS ONE OF THE LAST REMNANTS IN BASKET III OF THE IDEA OF "FREER MOVEMENT" AND THIS EXPLAINS WHY VIRTUALLY ALL WESTERN DELEGATIONS ARE CLINGING TENACIOUSLY TO THIS PHRASE IN THE TRAVEL TEXT IN SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN CONTACTS. QUALITATIVE NOTION OF "BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAVEL" DOES NOT REPEAT NOT IN OUR VIEW REFLECT THIS IDEA, AND WE BELIEVE THAT ACCEPTANCE OF IT IN JOURNALISTS' TEXT WHILE WESTERN DELEGATIONS ARE FIGHTING FOR IT IN TRAVEL TEXT WOULD BE SEEN BY SOVIETS AS A SIGNAL THAT THEY CAN ALSO ELIMINATE QUANTITATIVE CONCEPT OF "WIDER TRAVEL" FROM TRAVEL TEXT ITSELF. SUCH A STEP WOULD ROB BASKET III OF ONE OF THE LAST PHRASES IN CSCE TEXTS WHICH SPECIFICALLY REFLECTS WELL-KNOWN IDEA OF "FREER MOVEMENT". WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL FROM PUBLIC PRESENTATION VIEWPOINT TO INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE SUCH PHRASE IN BASKET III TEXTS.

3. IN THIS SITUATION WE ARE INCLINED TO KEEP FLEXIBILITY PROVIDED BY REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS IN RESERVE FOR THE TIME BEING, WHILE ENCOURAGING DUBININ TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE ON EARLY RESPONSE. WHEN HE DOES SO, AND WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ON TRAVEL TEXT APPEAR TO HAVE REACHED SATISFACTORY SOLUTION ON "WIDER TRAVEL" ISSUE, WE MIGHT TRY PHRASES LIKE "BROADER TRAVEL" OR "GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAVEL" ON DUBININ FOR PARA 5 OF JOURNALISTS TEXT. WE BELIEVE THESE PHRASES RETAIN QUANTITATIVE NOTION AND ARE PREFERABLE TO "BETTER OPPORTUNITIES," WHILE AT THE SAME TIME APPEARING TO BE A STEP CLOSER TO THE SOVIET POSITION. THIS APPEARS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS, AND UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED WE PLAN TO PROCEED IN THIS SENSE.ABRAMS

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